

CLAIMS

1. A preventive or therapeutic agent for asthma, comprising HGF or a salt thereof as an active ingredient.

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2. The preventive or therapeutic agent for asthma according to claim 1, wherein HGF is a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 or 2, a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence substantially identical to an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 or 2, or a partial peptide thereof.

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3. A preventive or therapeutic agent for asthma, comprising a DNA encoding HGF as an active ingredient.

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4. The preventive or therapeutic agent for asthma according to claim 3, wherein the DNA encoding HGF is a DNA comprising a base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 3 or 4, or a base sequence which hybridizes with a base sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 20 3 or 4 under highly stringent conditions.

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5. The preventive or therapeutic agent for asthma according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the DNA encoding HGF is inserted into a recombinant expression vector.

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6. The preventive or therapeutic agent for asthma according to claim 5, wherein the recombinant expression vector is adeno-associated virus (AAV), adenovirus, retrovirus, poxvirus, herpesvirus, herpes simplex virus, lentivirus (HIV),

sendaivirus, Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), vaccinia virus, poliovirus, sindbis virus, SV40, pCAGGS, pBK-CMV, pcDNA3.1 or pZeoSV.

5        7. The preventive or therapeutic agent for asthma according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the recombinant expression vector is further contained in a host cell.

10      8. The preventive or therapeutic agent for asthma according to any one of claims 3 to 7, wherein the DNA encoding HGF, or the recombinant expression vector containing the DNA encoding HGF is contained in a liposome or a microcapsule.

15      9. The preventive or therapeutic agent for asthma according to any one of claims 1 to 8, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20      10. A method for preventing or treating asthma, comprising suppressing airway inflammation by administering an effective amount of HGF or a salt thereof to a mammal.

11. A method for preventing or treating asthma, comprising suppressing airway inflammation by administering an effective amount of a DNA encoding HGF to a mammal.

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12. Use of HGF or a salt thereof for preparing a preventive or therapeutic agent for asthma, which comprises suppressing airway inflammation.

13. Use of a DNA encoding HGF for preparing a preventive or therapeutic agent for asthma, which comprises suppressing airway inflammation.